

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS - *DPW; PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD; AND SOLID WASTE*

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS BENTLEY
MERLINO
CONOVER
WOOD
TAYLOR
FRASIER
DICKINSON
MASON
MONTESI

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
KEVIN HAJOS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PAUL BUTLER, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS KENNY
LOEB
VANSELOW
SAMANTHA HOGAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST
JULIE PACYNA, PURCHASING AGENT
DEAN BOECHER, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
MATT SIMPSON, TOWN OF HORICON RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Bentley called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 9:35 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Paul Butler, Director of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is also on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Butler advised the first item listed pertained to a request to authorize Jacob Meyers, an RPI (*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*) student, to intern at the Warren County Fish Hatchery for one day per week until December 12, 2013. He noted there would be no cost to the County for the internship and RPI would provide all required insurances; Mr. Butler added that this arrangement would be subject to review and approval by the County Attorney. Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, interjected that this resolution should not be written specifically to provide authorization for Mr. Meyers to serve as an intern, but rather to authorize a new agreement with RPI which would allow internships for RPI students to take place at the Warren County Fish Hatchery, as they were requested, only requiring approval from the Committee Chairman. Mr. Tennyson advised that they had not had an intern at the Hatchery in several years, but they wanted to be prepared if a request was received.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request for a new internship agreement with RPI in a form approved by the County Attorney and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 18th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Butler directed the Committee members to agenda page 3, which included a request to create a Temporary Help position for the Parks, Recreation and Railroad Division. Mr. Tennyson reminded the Committee members that during their last meeting they had approved a request for a transfer of funds between budget codes from regular to part-time salaries which he thought could be used to cover costs associated with temporary help; however, he explained, since that meeting he had been advised a

Temporary Help position would need to be created and funds transferred into this position code as necessary. Mr. Tennyson advised that \$12,500 had been transferred to fund temporary help costs during the prior month to cover two vacant positions within the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division, one of which would remain vacant until the spring of 2014, while the second position was temporarily vacated due to a staff member who was out on Family Medical Leave. He further advised that since the duration of the employee's Family Medical Leave was unknown, it might be necessary to request the transfer of additional funds in the future.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Mason to approve the request.

Mr. Taylor questioned how the salary associated with the Temporary Help position would be determined and Mr. Tennyson responded that it would vary, depending upon Departmental needs, the job being performed and the experience level of the person hired; however, he noted, the salary figures would be based upon the position grades included in the CSEA contract. Mr. Montesi asked if the Family Medical Leave Act required a structured leave arrangement and Mr. Tennyson responded that it allowed up to twelve weeks of unpaid leave during which the employee could return to work at any time. Mr. Tennyson commented that they wanted to maintain some flexibility in this area because they were unsure when the employee would be returning to work.

There being no further discussion on the matter, Mr. Bentley called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to create a Temporary Help position within the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Continuing, Mr. Butler addressed the Items of Interest section of the agenda, as follows:

1. Mr. Butler noted that at the prior Committee Meeting there had been some questions as to whether stocked fish spawned after being stocked and he advised the answer received from a NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) Aquatic Biologist located in Warrensburg was that some Horn Lake strain brook trout did reproduce but it depended on the conditions of the lake or pond they were stocked in; he added that with respect to the domestic brook and rainbow trout, NYSDEC did not know for sure whether they were able to spawn, but suspected that they did not.
2. Mr. Butler indicated that on October 8th and 9th they would be stocking 3,000 salmon from the Fish Hatchery; a photo of one of the salmon to be stocked was circulated, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes. Mr. Butler noted that the salmon were received at an average length of 7" with the plan being to house them until they reached a larger size which made them more resilient to predatory activity before they were stocked. He advised the current average length of the fish to be stocked was 10".
3. With regard to the Pearsall Grant opportunity, Mr. Butler advised Up Yonda had been awarded \$2,500 two years ago for outreach programs and he said another application had been submitted for 2014 funding; he added that he would notify the Committee if the grant was awarded.
4. Mr. Butler noted that the agenda included a copy of a complimentary letter received regarding the Warren County Bikeway and its maintenance. He commented that it was very nice to receive letters such as this, commending the work he and his staff provided.
5. Photos of construction work to enclose the Thurman Railroad Station were circulated amongst the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes. Mr. Butler advised the construction project had started in mid August, constituting five to six weeks of work, and was proceeding very well. Mr. Butler advised one of his staff members, as well as one Buildings & Grounds staff member, a plumber and an electrician had been working on the building, which was now plumbed, electrified and awaiting inspection. He concluded that their plan was to begin work within the following weeks to enclose the Hadley Station platform, which would look identical to the Thurman Station when complete.

Mr. Conover noted there was nothing on the roof over the doorway to the Thurman Station to stop rainwater from sheeting off of the building onto anyone trying to enter it and Mr. Butler responded that the building had a gutter system that would be replaced when the exterior painting was complete.

With respect to the Referrals section, Mr. Butler advised that no updates were available for either of the Referral items listed on the agenda.

Concluding the Parks, Recreation & Railroad agenda review, Mr. Bentley offered privilege of the floor to anyone wishing to address the Committee.

Mr. Loeb stated that he had recently been kayaking on Feeder Dam Lake, which was located on the Hudson River, and noticed there were many areas where items in the water posed potential boating hazards. He surmised that by marking hazards such as these in the Hudson River, they could increase the recreation potential for the waterbody to both residents and visitors with boating interests. Mr. Loeb suggested further discussion with respect to the County assuming the lead agency status to mark hazards and possibly increase public access to the Hudson River, which offered a picturesque setting for water recreation.

Chairman Geraghty apprised that during the prior weekend he had attended a picnic held at the Fish Hatchery and he commended the Fish Hatchery staff for doing an excellent job in maintaining the property. He noted that several other parties were held on the grounds that day and he said the Hatchery staff had been very affable and amenable, providing facility tours for anyone interested. Mr. Butler thanked Chairman Geraghty for his comments.

Mr. Merlino advised that the Town of Lake Luzerne had received a number of complaints about kayak access to the Hudson River, leading him to contact Mr. Butler for assistance. He noted that Mr. Butler had helped to secure the necessary permit from NYSDEC in order to allow Town of Lake Luzerne staff to address the access issue. Mr. Merlino stated that he had received many compliments regarding the increased accessibility and he thanked Mr. Butler for his assistance with this endeavor.

There being no further Parks, Recreation & Railroad business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Tennyson who distributed copies of the DPW agenda to the Committee members. *A copy of the DPW agenda is also on file with the meeting minutes.*

Commencing with the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson apprised that agenda page 1 included a reporting of overtime hours incurred for all DPW Divisions; he noted that the figures reported for the month of September included the 565 overtime hours incurred in association with the Adirondack Balloon Festival event. Mr. Montesi questioned the amount of revenue received for paid parking during the Balloon Festival and Mr. Tennyson replied he did not have definitive figures to present, but could attest that the parking revenues received for 2013 were lower than those received for 2012. Mr. Tennyson advised that he intended to provide a thorough briefing on the parking results, as well as ideas for other ways in which to generate revenue, at the next County Facilities Committee meeting.

With respect to the fuel expense and usage reports included on agenda pages 2 - 4, Mr. Tennyson commented that although his Division was facing areas of the budget with more than 90% expenditures, the fuel budget continued to run at an excess, leading him to believe there would be an overage of funds available at the end of the year. He noted they were in danger of overexpending the budget in other areas and might find it necessary to transfer monies from the fuel budget to the equipment repair codes. Mr. Tennyson credited consistent fuel costs for the overage, but cautioned that inclement weather could have a negative effect on the fuel budget, causing the overage to be expended rather quickly.

Mr. Tennyson directed the Committee members to agenda page 5 which included a request to increase

Capital Project No. H250.9550 280, *Highway Equipment Storage Building Roof*, in the amount of \$236.41, with the source of funding to be a transfer from Budget Code D.5110 413, *County Road, Maintenance of Roads, Repair & Maint.-Bldg/Property*. He continued that they intended to close this project, as referenced by the resolution request form included on agenda page 6, but explained the transfer of funds was necessary to fund payment of final invoices before the Project could be closed. Mr. Tennyson advised that later in the agenda review he would present a formal request for the transfer of funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request to increase Capital Project No. H250.9550 280 in the amount of \$236.41, as outlined above, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the request to close Capital Project No. H250.9550 280 and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Moving on to agenda page 7, Mr. Tennyson presented a request to authorize himself and Kevin Hajos, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works, to attend the Statewide Conference on Local Bridges Professional Development Program which was to be held in North Syracuse, NY on October 29 - 31, 2013.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the travel request. *A copy of the executed Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson announced that agenda page 10 included a request for a transfer of funds between various road projects totaling \$54,500. He noted that transfers of this nature were typical for this time of year to cover unanticipated repairs or fund low budgets in order to complete 2013 road projects.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the request for transfers of funds totaling \$54,500 between various road projects and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Continuing to agenda page 11, Mr. Tennyson presented the aforementioned request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$236.41 from Budget Code D.5110 413 to Capital Project No. H250.9550 280 in order to fund final invoices and close the Capital Project.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson announced the next agenda item pertained to Items of Interest; at Mr. Tennyson's request, Mr. Hajos outlined the Items of Interest, as follows:

- * Hicks Road Reconstruction Update - Mr. Hajos apprised the construction bids for this Federally funded project were awarded to Kubricky Construction and the work was expected to begin within the week.
- * Crane Mt. Road Bridge Reconstruction - A photo of the temporary bridge being used in connection with this Federally funded reconstruction project was circulated; *a copy of the photo is on file with the meeting minutes.* Mr. Hajos noted that this temporary bridge had been constructed by County staff a few years ago and would serve as the County's local match for the project.
- * Lanfear Road Bridge Rehabilitation - A photo of the recently completed Bridge was circulated and a copy is on file with the meeting minutes.

- * DPW Paving of Hudson Street, Warrensburg - Several photos of the paving work completed for Hudson Street were circulated, copies of which are on file with the meeting minutes. Mr. Hajos indicated that they had received many compliments on the paving work.

Mr. Tennyson advised the next agenda item called for an executive session to discuss matters relating to the Corinth Road Project. Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, clarified that the purpose of the executive session would be to discuss the pending Eminent Domain proceedings specifically regarding the property owned by AREC10, LLC, as well as to receive legal counsel on such matter.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to enter into an executive session, pursuant to Section 105(d) of the Public Officer's Law.

An executive session was held from 10:04 a.m. to 10:19 a.m.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Bentley announced that no action had been taken during the executive session.

Concluding the DPW agenda review, Mr. Tennyson advised there were no Referral items to address.

Mr. Tennyson distributed copies of the Solid Waste agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes. Mr. Tennyson noted that the agenda included only one item, that being a request to extend the existing solid waste disposal and transportation contracts through December 31, 2014.

Mr. Auffredou explained the contracts for which renewal was being requested were for solid waste disposal and transportation services; he noted that these were not the intermunicipal agreements secured with each municipality to participate in the contracts and receive solid waste services. He clarified that the initial solid waste contracts were written for a term expiring at the end of 2013, but included provisions for two separate one-year renewals. Mr. Auffredou continued that the intermunicipal agreements had included verbiage indicating that on October 1st, the County would announce whether they intended to renew the solid waste contracts, and due to this deadline, the Committee needed to make a determination as to whether or not the contract extensions were desired.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which many of the Committee members expressed their support for the continuation of the solid waste transportation and disposal contracts.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to extend the existing solid waste disposal and transportation contracts through December 31, 2014. *Note: Resolution Nos. 112-117 of 2013 provided authority for two one-year extensions of these contracts without further resolution.*

Mr. Montesi noted that the volume of citizens using the Queensbury Transfer Station was decreasing and Mr. Bentley agreed the same was occurring in the Town of Horicon. Mr. Tennyson suggested that this was likely due to the fact that many waste disposal companies were offering neighborhood discounts for trash pickup which made those services more fiscally prudent.

A discussion ensued regarding controlled brush burning activities by municipalities.

There being no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Montesi and seconded by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Bentley adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Deputy Clerk of the Board